

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 SCI-06

CEQ-02 EPA-04 NIC-01 DRC-01 FEA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SAM-01

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3689

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1222

ZFF6 FOR BONN AND DEPT ONLY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GE, GW, WB, UR, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS AND GDR THREATEN MEASURES AGAINST FEA ESTABLISHMENT

REF: BERLIN 1170

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, JULY 21, IN ADDITION TO REPRODUCING SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY DECLARATION ATTACKING ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY IN WEST BERLIN, ALSO CARRIED TEXT OF GDR GOVERNMENT DECLARATION THREATENING SPECIFIC MEASURES AGAINST FEA EMPLOYEES ON TRANSIT ROUTES AT SUCH TIME AS AGENCY GOES INTO BUSINESS. REPEATING FAMILIAR ARGUMENTATION ON FEA AND EMPLOYING IMPLIED DISCRETIONARY POWER PROVIDED BY SOVIET DECLARATION, GDR DECLARATION (APPEARING IMMEDIATELY BELOW THAT OF SOVIET'S) STATED THAT
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"THE EMPLOYEES OF THIS FEDERAL OFFICE OF THE FRG AS WELL

AS THE TRANSPORT OF PROPERTY AND RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION OVER THE COMMUNICATION (ROUTES) OF THE GDR IS CONSIDERED UNLAWFUL. ACCORDINGLY, THERE IS NO LEGAL BASIS FOR TRANSIT TRAVEL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THIS FEDERAL AGENCY."

2. NOTING THAT FRG HAD IGNORED REPEATED WARNINGS AGAINST TAKING "THIS ILLEGAL STEP" (ESTABLISHMENT OF FEA) AND CONSEQUENCES WHICH WOULD FLOW FROM SUCH ACTION, GDR DECLARATION STATED THAT FRG GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS BREACH OF QA. DECLARATION DESCRIBED GDR'S BEHAVIOR AS PRUDENT SINCE ANNOUNCED MEASURES DO NOT AFFECT "TRANSIT TRAFFIC OVER GDR TERRITORY TO AND FROM WEST BERLIN" AND DIRECTED ONLY AT "PERSONNEL, PROPERTY AND COMMUNICATIONS OF FRG ENVIRONMENT AGENCY."

3. SENAT AND GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ ISSUED PRESS STATEMENTS EVENING OF JULY 20 REFUTING GDR CHARGES AND STATING THAT PROPOSED EAST GERMAN MEASURES WOULD VIOLATE QA. WEST BERLIN SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN THREATS (E.G., TAGESSPIEGEL HEADLINE "MOSCOW THREATENS BERLIN, GDR ANNOUNCES MEASURES.")

4. THUS FAR WE HAVE HAD NO REPORTS OF ACTUAL INCIDENTS ON TRANSIT ROUTES INVOLVING FEA PERSONNEL.

5. MISSION BELIEVES IMMEDIATE ALLIED RESPONSE IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS KNOW WE CANNOT ACCEPT SUCH ACTIONS AND TO REASSURE WEST BERLINERS OF ALLIED SUPPORT. MISSION THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN MAKE STATEMENT AT JULY 22 NOON BRIEFING COVERING FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) ESTABLISHMENT OF FEA IN WEST BERLIN FULLY COMPATIBLE WITH QA AND THEREFORE APPROVED BY ALLIES; (B) MEASURES THREATENED BY GDR WOULD BE VIOLATION OF QA; AND (C) WE HOPE THAT SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS SERIOUSLY CONSIDER CONSEQUENCES OF TAKING ACTIONS WHICH WOULD VIOLATE QA. IT IS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT COMMON PRESS LINE BE COORDINATED IN BONN IN TIME FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS JULY 22 SO THAT ALL FOUR CAPITALS RESPOND SIMILARLY.

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6. IN VIEW OF ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO SOVIET AND GDR STATEMENTS IN BERLIN AND PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT THEIR IMPLICATIONS, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO APPROPRIATE TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF US-GDR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. ANNOUNCEMENT AT THIS PARTICULAR JUNCTURE, COULD HAVE SERIOUS NEGATIVE POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL REPERCUSSIONS IN BERLIN. KLEIN

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